

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Lisa Goldman
Acting City Manager

Date: June 7, 2011

Re: Award a Contract in the Amount of \$84,202 Including Contingencies, to E2 Consulting for the Smoke Testing of the City of Alameda's Sanitary Sewer System, No. P.W. 03-11-06

BACKGROUND

The City's sewer facilities collect sewage generated by Alameda residents and businesses and convey it via a network of pipes, pump stations, and lift stations to East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) for treatment. The existing sewer system, which is approximately 100 years old in some areas, has loose pipe joints, small cracks, and sections of deteriorated pipes. During heavy storm events, these deficiencies enable the stormwater to seep into the pipes, further damaging the pipes and significantly increasing the amount of flow in the pipes. This is known as infiltration. In addition, stormwater may enter the sanitary sewer system at points of direct connection to the systems through foundation drains, downspouts, and basement sump pumps improperly or illegally connected to sewer systems. This is known as inflow. The conveyance of sewer flows is subject to both state and federal regulation.

Alameda is one of seven satellite agencies in Alameda County that rely on EBMUD to accept and treat its sewage. During periods of heavy rain, the increased flow from inflow and infiltration (I&I) overburdens the EBMUD interceptor system and treatment facility cannot convey and process all the wet weather flows. In the 1990s, EBMUD's wet weather facilities (WWF) were constructed as temporary detention facilities for the increase in volume, with discharges permitted during large storm events. However, in 2007, EBMUD's discharge permit for its WWF was remanded by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) based on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ruling that the discharges did not meet secondary treatment standards and, therefore, were in violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

In January 2009, the EPA issued a Cease & Desist Order (CDO) to EBMUD prohibiting discharges from the WWF. The basis of the CDO was due to sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) from EBMUD's WWF entering the Bay and affecting water quality. In July 2009, EBMUD entered into an agreement with EPA and the SWRCB (Stipulated Order), requiring it to develop programs, in conjunction with the satellite agencies, to address the regional wet weather problem.

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Based on the results from initial studies conducted by EBMUD and its subsequent negotiations and pre-CDO discussions with EPA, EBMUD determined that rehabilitation of the local collection systems would be more cost effective than upgrading its WWF to provide secondary treatment. This decision effectively placed the responsibility for reducing wet weather flows on the satellite agencies. In October 2009, EPA issued administration compliance orders to each of the satellite agencies identifying the initial steps required to reduce wet weather flows. This included mandating certain improvements to the infrastructure and modifying existing operations and maintenance practices.

One of the required elements in the City of Alameda's administrative compliance order is to perform annual smoke testing of the sanitary sewer facilities. Smoke testing is a quick method of detecting I/I by detecting specific inflow points such as sewer/drainage cross-connections including roof leaders, yard and area drains, fountain drains, abandoned building sewers, and faulty service connections.

In April 2011, the Public Works Department issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for professional consulting services to perform smoke testing of the City's sanitary sewer system over a five-year period. Each year the consultant will smoke test one-fifth of the City's sewer system. Work to be performed includes the preparation and execution of smoke testing plans, providing public noticing, and collecting and managing the test results. The contract may be mutually extended for up to five years, to enable the same consultant to smoke test the City's entire sanitary sewer system, based upon satisfactory performance of all aspects of the work. If extended, the contract will be annually increased by the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area appropriate to the trades associated with the work, as reported in the *Engineering News Record*.

DISCUSSION

To solicit the maximum number of proposals, notification of the RFP was sent to all of the qualified civil engineering consultants on the City's consulting list. The City received three proposals from the following consultants:

Consultant	Location	Proposal Amount
E2 Consulting	Emeryville	\$76,547
ADS Environmental	Los Gatos	\$79,184
V&A	Oakland	\$160,372

Public Works staff contacted several references provided by the consultant whose proposal was the lowest and received positive feedback about the requirements and quality and timeliness of its work. Staff proposes to award a contract to E2 Consulting, for a total amount of \$84,202, including a 10 percent contingency. A copy of the contract is on file in the City Clerk's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The project is budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program (Project No. 91031), with monies allocated from the Sewer Enterprise funds.

MUNICIPAL CODE/POLICY DOCUMENT CROSS REFERENCE

This action does not affect the Municipal Code.

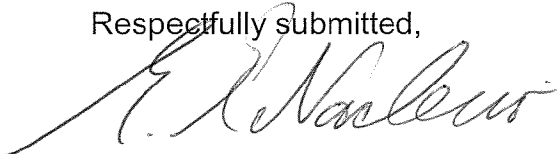
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project is Statutorily Exempt under CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306, Information Collection.

RECOMMENDATION

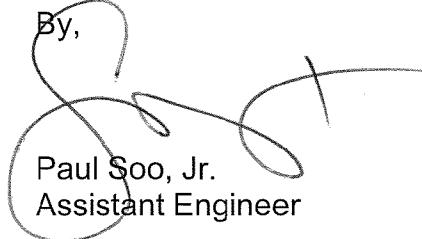
Award a contract in the amount of \$84,202, including contingencies, to E2 Consulting for the smoke testing of the City of Alameda's sanitary sewer system, No. P.W. 12-10-33.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

By,



Paul Soo, Jr.
Assistant Engineer

Approved as to funds and account,



Fred Marsh
Controller

Exhibit:

1. Contract (on file in the City Clerk's office)